

## The History of DES

### Arizona Statehood Day

Arizona Became the 48th state on February 14, 1912.

Sixty years later, the Arizona Department of Economic Security was born.

The Arizona Legislature combined several state agencies to form DES

The Employment Security Commission; the State Department of Public Welfare; the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; the Veterans' Service Commission; the State Office of Economic Opportunity; the Apprenticeship Council; and the State Office of Manpower Planning.

The Department has undergone quite a few changes over the years.

1972: DES was born.

Richard Nixon was president

Jack Williams was governor.

*The French Connection* won Best Picture

Roberta Flack was at the top of the Billboard Chart

The Dallas Cowboys won the Super Bowl.

1973: DES takes services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

1982: DES established services for the visually and hearing impaired

Veterans Service Commission removed from the Department

1986: DES was required to coordinate hunger relief efforts.

1989: Office of Long Term Care Ombudsman was established.

1990: Office to address homelessness established.

2003: Child Protective Services (CPS) establishes several investigative units

2014: CPS was removed from DES and became a new agency, the Department of Child Safety (DCS).

The first director of DES was William J. Mayo, who served from January 1973 until March 1975.

Including interim directors, there have been a total of 27 who have been at the helm of DES, including our current director, Michael Traylor.

Rec "The basement at 1717 [West Jefferson in Phoenix] was where they stored all the records. It was just this big, dark basement. You'd go down there to find things in boxes."

--Lynne Parrish, Employee since 1969ollections of DES

"In 1971, we all had swamp coolers. Not one building had A/C."

--Ann Frerichs, Employee since 1971

"I literally grew up in DES; started when I was just 19 years old and started at the one and only Food Stamp Office on 16th Street & Oak on June 29, 1972. Food Stamps was a brand new program at the time and replaced the old food commodity program. For the next 32 years, I had 10 different positions, always growing and learning more about the programs and services offered to individuals and families who needed a little help and support."

--Barbara Ruddy, Employee since 1972

Happy Statehood Day!